

# COMMUNITY FOCUS



This is the first issue of the new *Community Focus*, a quarterly newsletter serving the Town of West Bloomfield, including the hamlets of West Bloomfield, North Bloomfield, and Ionia. Our goal is to strengthen communication in our town and bring us together as neighbors. Welcome from your editor Michael Borgeest, and assistant editor Suzanne Washburn.

We have reached out to as many community contacts as we could find to request content for this first issue. If we missed your organization, please be in touch for information about guidelines and the next publication date (Summer 2022). We also welcome input on what you would like to see in future issues. Because the newsletter is funded by the Town, there are some limits on what we can include, but we invite suggestions. Email Mike at [mcborgeest@aol.com](mailto:mcborgeest@aol.com)

## Supervisor Todd Campbell

Welcome back to the *Community Focus*! Thank you to Mike and Sue for your efforts on this.

As I write this, winter is coming to a close (I hope!), COVID appears to be slowing down which is leading to changes in the masking mandates, and events are unfolding in Ukraine.

**I would encourage you to check the Town website [www.townofwestbloomfield.org](http://www.townofwestbloomfield.org) for updates.** Our newly elected Town Clerk—Brenda Giglia—has been making some updates and we will be doing our best to keep it current regarding events, COVID updates from the state/county, and providing links and information to ongoing events. Our Assessor is working on a town wide revaluation—there is a link on the website with information about the process and what it means for individual taxpayers.

**The Town Board is looking forward to being able to hold an Open House over the summer to let our residents see the Community Town Hall. We will also be restarting our efforts on revising our Comprehensive Plan.** If you have submitted your information in the past, I will be checking in with you to see if you are still interested. I encourage you to send a letter of interest if you'd like to be involved. The Comprehensive Plan is a vitally important tool in working on the long-range plan and vision for the Town. We have openings on our Planning and Zoning Boards for members/alternates—this is a great way to be involved and support the Town as we move forward.

**Lastly--I would like to recognize our former Town Clerk, Mary Grundman,** for her years of service to the Town and our residents. Her knowledge, experience, and expertise will be missed; but Mary and Brenda were able to work together for a couple of months in 2021 to ensure we had a smooth transition and Brenda has stepped up and is managing the office great.

I look forward to being able to provide more updates as the *Community Focus* regains its foot hold for the Town! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to send me an email at [tcampbell@townofwestbloomfield.org](mailto:tcampbell@townofwestbloomfield.org) or give me a call (585) 624-2461.

## Highway Superintendent Jeff Ball

Greetings from the West Bloomfield Highway Department. At the time of this writing, we are wrapping up our plowing season and looking forward to warmer weather. As the Superintendent I'm thankful for the hardworking and faithful employees of the Highway Department who keep our roads safe and passable during the winter months

Our spring work will include sweeping roads, repairing plow damage on roadsides, taking down snow fence, and removing the plow equipment from the trucks. We are excited to transition into our summer work of road rebuilding, [replacing aging culvert pipe, and oiling & stoning,](#) but with the escalating prices on commodities and labor our plans for summer work are still in process. By the time you read this you will be able to see a list of road projects on the town website.

I enjoy talking to residents and would be happy to take your phone call anytime at 585-410-2697 or receive email at [highwaysuper@townofwestbloomfield.org](mailto:highwaysuper@townofwestbloomfield.org). Give us a wave if you see us on the highway and, as always, slow down for the guys in orange!

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## West Bloomfield Historical Society



[wbhsny.org](http://wbhsny.org)

By Suzanne Washburn, President

Thanks to all for supporting WBHS through two challenging years and to outgoing President Mike Borgeest for his leadership. Despite the pandemic we continued to move forward with an accessibility ramp, a NY State Charter, and improvements to the building and collection.

Now we're open again! Find information at [wbhsny.org](http://wbhsny.org) (Website), and West Bloomfield Historical Society, New York (Facebook). Watch for announcements in the Genesee Valley Penny Saver and at the Town Hall and Post Offices. Or call Sue (585-657-7060). Coming up:

**Public programs and exhibits at the Society, 8966 Rt. 5 & 20, at 7 PM the first Tuesday of each month through October,** and other monthly events. We're also open by appointment.

**30<sup>th</sup> Community Yard Sale, July 9 and 10, 2022.** We need donors, volunteers, and shoppers. You can even have our own yard sale on the grounds. See [wbhsny.org](http://wbhsny.org) for more. If you have a large, quality item to donate, we can store a few right now. Call Scott at 585-755-5464.



WBHS Pat Talley working with Troup 56 Eagle Scout candidate Ian Mitchell. Pat was assisting to identify and document cemetery records. Ian successfully completed his Eagle Scout project which included replacing the worn out “Pioneer Cemetery” sign as well as assisting volunteers to prop up falling headstones. The Pioneer Cemetery is located on County Road 37.

**Pat Talley, Historian for the Town and WBHS**, has retired after 12+ years of volunteer service. We thank Pat for helping so many learn about West Bloomfield’s past and people, and for her commitment to accurate research and publishing, her efforts to save landmarks and artifacts, and her dedication to meeting the needs of the community.

**Newly appointed Historian is Mike Borgeest.** Mike loves West Bloomfield and has a strong background in history and preservation. He is also an interpreter at Genesee Country Village. Send your West Bloomfield history inquiries to Mike through the website [wbhsny.org](http://wbhsny.org).

**Society Collection Manager is Lorraine Frelier.** Lorraine is leading us in refreshing our exhibits, adding rotating exhibits, and telling the stories of our town through displays.

**We’re seeking images (such as wedding or christening photos) that show the interior of the Society building when it was St. Joseph’s Catholic Church.** Please send copies to [washbrn@rochester.rr.com](mailto:washbrn@rochester.rr.com) or WBHS, Box 173, West Bloomfield NY 14585

The family of **Sandra Bortle Schlenker** has also donated her extensive historical files to us for permanent safekeeping—a wonderful gift and resource.

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**Join us:** You can simply be a supporter of local history or volunteer your time -- once, occasionally, or regularly. Send this form with payment to WBHS, Box 173, West Bloomfield NY 14585. Questions? Call Mary at 585-657-7722 or email [mt2152@hotmail.com](mailto:mt2152@hotmail.com)

Name, Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email address if you have one \_\_\_\_\_

Circle Member Category for 2022: Single (\$12) Family (\$15) Single Senior age 60+ (\$10)

Business (\$25) Student (\$8) Lifetime Single (\$100) Lifetime Senior Couple age 70+ (\$150)

# Ionia United Methodist Church

[www.ioniaumc.org](http://www.ioniaumc.org)

By Mary Twardokus

**At the Ionia United Methodist Church, 2120 Elton Road in Ionia, all are welcome to our services, fellowship times, and events!**

Sunday Worship is held at 9 AM with a "Coffee/Fellowship Time" held after the service.

Sunday morning DVD Study with Ray Vander Laan is held at 10:30 AM, after our worship service.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month, we hold Birthday Sunday, celebrating people whose birthdays are in that month.

On the last Sunday of each month, our church family holds a Pot-Luck Brunch after our worship service, with lots of good food and fellowship



**Missions:** You may drop off your redeemable pop cans and bottles into the crate behind the church and all the redemption money is used toward our church's missions! Last year some of the places that received donations were Open Door Mission, Heifer Project, UMCOR's flood buckets, and Water for South Sudan. This year we will donate to the Willow women's shelter in Rochester among other organizations.

Periodically we collect clothes for Open Door Mission, Asbury Storehouse, and Victor UMC's Community Clothes Closet, along with food for Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Dinner Baskets, and items for Christmas shoeboxes for the Red Bird Mission in Kentucky.

**Our Mission Team is also collecting computers for the Rochester Refugee Resettlement Services**, a non-profit organization in Rochester "collaborating to provide services and opportunities to ensure assimilation of refugees into our society by providing assistance as they strive to be self-sustaining neighbors while still maintaining their own cultural heritage." They rehab homes for the refugees to live in, help them with their basic needs to get resettled, and then offer many training programs and other services to the refugees. Some of our members volunteer for this worthwhile organization. RRRS is looking for donations of operational computers (both laptops and PCs) with at least 5GB memory to help in their adult computer training program and to go to refugees and asylum seekers in need. If you have a functioning laptop or desktop that you no longer need, drop it off in the Church Fellowship Hall or call Mary at 657-7722 to arrange drop-off.

**Mark our upcoming events on your calendar: Mark our upcoming events on your calendar:**

**Strawberry Social:** Thursday, June 16, 4:30-6:30 PM, drive-thru, to be held at the church, with hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage, salads, & strawberry desserts

**Raspberry Social:** Thursday, July 21, 4:30-6:30 PM, drive-thru, to be held at the church, with hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage, salads, & fruit desserts

**24<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Festival & Tractor Parade** – all day Saturday, September 17. Our Tractor Parade will begin at 1 PM. There will be lots of food, dessert wheel, games, vendors, hayrides, demonstrations, and more! Come for a fun fall day in the country!

**We are starting to plan our 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holiday Fair Craft Show: Saturday, November 19**, from 9 AM-3 PM. Applications will be available after July 1 on our website [www.ioniaumc.org](http://www.ioniaumc.org)

Check out all the information on our website [www.ioniaumc.org](http://www.ioniaumc.org) and on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/IoniaUMCNY](https://www.facebook.com/IoniaUMCNY)

We want to thank the community for all your support during this COVID pandemic!

## West Bloomfield Congregational United Church of Christ

[wbccucc.org](http://wbccucc.org)

Announcements from Pastor Corey Keyes

**West Bloomfield United Church of Christ meets Sunday mornings at 10 AM** for inspiring, thoughtful worship, song, and discussion. We are located at 9035 Rt. 5 at the four corners of West Bloomfield. Services are also live streamed on our church Facebook page.

If you are hungry, we maintain a 24-7 food cupboard in the south alcove of our new building. Reach us at 585-624-1313.

## Ionia Women's Club

By Mary Twardokus

**The Ionia Women's Club welcomes all women living in the Ionia area to their meetings held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 PM.** This group began many decades ago (probably in the 1940s) as a Home Bureau Cooperative Extension group. The basic purpose of the club has remained the same – to share friendships, homemaking skills, cooking, crafts, to keep abreast on the current trends, community action, and to give back to the community. One way is to give our scholarship to a graduating senior at Bloomfield High School each June. Another way is to sew dresses for "Dress A Girl," an international organization, whose "goal is to provide dignity and hope and let girls know that they are loved," which also discourages would-be predators around the world. "Imagine a world where every little girl owned at least one dress." Our latest project is sewing surgery caps for children undergoing surgery at Golisano Children's Hospital at Strong, which we have been able to still do at home during the pandemic.

Some of our meetings, programs, and meals have been put on hold due to the Covid pandemic, but we have cautiously started to gather again. For information on joining in on the gatherings, call Mary Twardokus 657-7722.

## North Bloomfield Cemetery Association, inc.

[www.northbloomfieldcemetery.com](http://www.northbloomfieldcemetery.com)

By Debbie Jahn, Secretary



**North Bloomfield Cemetery is located at 1941 NY Route 65, Honeoye Falls, N.Y. 14472.**

The North Bloomfield Cemetery, No. 35-021 was established in 1804 and then incorporated in May 1870. This picturesque property was originally donated by Captain Josiah Gates' family.

There are approximately 140 veterans buried there beginning with the French and Indian War through current conflicts.

**Every Memorial Day at 8:30 AM a small parade takes place and the reading of each veteran's name**, along with a gun salute, commemorates their sacrifice. Please join us this Memorial Day 2022. Take a walk through history in our cemetery!

Most people do not realize that these country cemeteries are run and maintained by the volunteering of community people that live in and around the cemeteries. It has been challenging to keep the cemeteries viable as their only sources of income are donations, sales of plots, and volunteers. More and more these cemeteries are being abandoned to the town and villages they lie within. Please consider helping a few hours a year at one of the local cemeteries.

Find further information and photos at [www.northbloomfieldcemetery.com](http://www.northbloomfieldcemetery.com) or look up "North Bloomfield Cemetery" on Google Maps. Reach the Cemetery Superintendent at 585-624-1823. Plots for sale at \$650.

**Please consider joining us at our next annual meeting on June 14, 2022, at 6 PM** in the North Bloomfield Chapel on Route 65 just north of the cemetery.

## Millers Corners Cemetery

By Wayne Parrish

**Save The Date:** The Memorial Day ceremony will be held on Monday, May 30.

The 2022 annual meeting of the cemetery was held on March 30 (about a month after the deadline for news in this issue). The current officers are most likely still the same since they have not changed since 2017 when the last issue was published. The officers are President – Lynn Parrish, Vice President – Randy O’Brien, Secretary – Marna Evans, Treasurer – Wayne Parrish, Superintendent – Larry Evans. The Trustees are John Bennett, Gary Evans, Richard Frye, Sue Garling, Joanne O’Brien, and Lisa Parrish.

Last year was a busy year maintaining the cemetery.

A record of 12 interments were held.

A record of 30 lawn mowings were required.

Several trees had to be removed: two dead trees by the front fence and a couple of trees by the vault that were in danger of falling on memorial stones.

**REMINDER:** This spring when placing flowers and plants on the graves, they must be potted. Any items permanently planted in the ground will be removed as allowed by NYS Cemetery Law. Also, by local policy, memorial lights are NOT allowed at any time in the cemetery.

If you wish to purchase a lot or schedule the installation of a monument, please contact the Superintendent, Larry Evans, at 585-624-4993.

## Allen’s Hill Free Library

<https://sites.google.com/view/allenshillfreelibrary>

By Christine Green, Library Director **The Allens Hill Free Library is the “Little Library on the Hill,” just 6 miles south of the West Bloomfield Town Hall on County Road 40!** We provide print and non-print materials and services to the community, and act as a center for learning, information gathering, and leisure reading. In addition to books for all ages, we have DVDs, CDs, video games, board games, and other materials to borrow. This spring we will add fishing poles to our collection. We also have internet access inside and outside the building, computers for patron use, and printing services.

**Last year we were thrilled to collaborate with John Magnus Champlin, who grew up in West Bloomfield, to restore the mural on our building.** Stop by and see his amazing artwork. We also have a beautiful flower garden and coffee station for patrons to enjoy. This spring we will add an outdoor Storywalk® and we are planning a wonderful celebration for its opening!

We have seasonal book sales, monthly programs for adults and kids, and a fun-filled summer reading program! This year’s theme is “Oceans of Possibilities.” Check out our social media for more information. We would be thrilled to provide you with a library card if you don’t already have one. Stop by and visit us soon!

Hours: Tuesday 6-8. Wednesday, 3-6:30. Friday 2:30-8. Saturday 1-4

Phone: (585) 229-5636

Address: 3818 County Road 40, Bloomfield, NY 14469

Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/allenshillfreelibrary>

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/AHFLibrary](http://www.facebook.com/AHFLibrary)

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ahflibrary>

## IONIA Volunteer Fire Company Inc.

ioniafireco.org

By Lynn Parrish, Chief

**The firefighters in Ionia have been busy training and responding to emergencies in Town. We have been working together with the firefighters in West Bloomfield for the past several years** and we continue to find ways to support each other. By the time you read this, we hope that many of the pandemic restrictions have been lifted. However, you can rest assured we will be there ready to respond to your emergencies regardless.

In the last couple of years, we received a grant to upgrade all our air packs. These are used to supply our firefighters with breathing air to be able to enter smoke filled and otherwise contaminated spaces.

We continue to enjoy our new fire station that replaced our old fire house after it was destroyed in a fire in 2015. If you have not seen our new station, we would be very happy to show you around. Feel free to stop and see us any Monday evening.

**Finally, we are always looking for new members.** We have a couple of different ways for you to volunteer. You can choose to be a firefighting member, or you can be a non-firefighting member and help with fund-raising, work around the station, or help with administrative duties (i.e. President, Secretary, Treasurer.....etc.). We provide all the training at no cost to you. Come and see us to find out more.

## WEST BLOOMFIELD BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA (BSA Programs)

By Tim Schiefen, Committee Chair

I was very pleased to see a flyer in the West Bloomfield Post office announcing that the *Community Focus* was returning! Our community's newsletter is one of the few places we in the township can read about what happens right here where we spend our days, times, and lives. You may be finding, like I have, that where you are from is important for a variety of reasons. Call it hometown pride, or community pride, or what you will. I feel it is very important for us as parents to provide or instill a sense of pride in where you come from in our children.

Many of our youth have a blurred understanding of the place they are from. If asked they may say they are from "Bloomfield" since the school they attend is Bloomfield Central. For many that may be just fine. However, if you live in North Bloomfield, you may think you're from Honeoye Falls since that is where you go to school.

**Did you know that West Bloomfield has its own "official" BSA Program for Scouts and Cubs?** Over the years many who are not aware that we have our own groups have chosen to join other units. To today's families, I urge you to consider our program because Scouting is fun in West Bloomfield! And we work very hard to make it fun! We are very clear that our unit serves this community, which includes all roof tops in the West Bloomfield township.

OK, with that out of the way, I appeal to the parents that live in our town. Please consider involvement in our hometown Scout units. We need youth and adults to keep our units doing what we do! We are looking for Scout leaders, Den leaders, and committee members. You may think, "Me a Scout leader?" We will train you. The BSA has training to help parents become leaders in all programs.

I was not a Scout leader when I joined 20+ years ago with my son. I was just a dad with a 6-year-old son who came home from school with a flyer for Cub Scouts. What I found was a great way to have a great time with my son and his friends. Years later I had the same great time with my daughter in Venture Scouts. Twenty years later I am not quite as active with Scouts, but I still have a great time with our Scouts, their parents, and members of our community. Maybe you know some of our former Scouts? Most have gone on to become dynamic adults!

**What we're up to:** West Bloomfield Scouts are now busy planning our Spring Break trip. This year we may visit West Virginia or Washington DC. Our Cub Pack is currently re-organizing and finally getting back to regular meetings now that the pandemic has allowed us to again meet in person. Stay tuned for the next article with more details about the Cub Pack.

**We also want to thank the patrons of our winter Pancake Breakfasts.** We've had a large turn out and it was nice to see so many folks come to help our fundraising efforts.

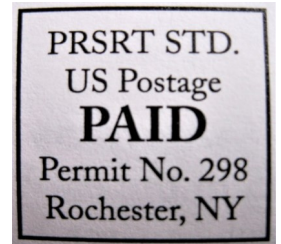
**Our Scout Troop meets every Monday night at 7 PM** at the West Bloomfield Fire Department. All are welcome! Come and see what you may be missing! For more information, e-mail me at [fordguru@frontiernet.net](mailto:fordguru@frontiernet.net).

# COMMUNITY FOCUS

NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST BLOOMFIELD

9097 DAYLIGHT DRIVE

WEST BLOOMFIELD NY 14585



## Contributor Deadlines

June 3rd 2022

Sept 2nd 2022

## ECRWSS Postal Customer

### Play it safe while fueling

By **Kevin Carey**, Captain, Ionia Volunteer Fire Co.

In recent years, local fire departments have responded to several fires in our area caused by fueling accidents of small engines and power equipment. In at least one case an entire home was destroyed by a lawnmower fire that started in an adjoining shed during service work. Portable gasoline equipment is all around us, and many of us use these tools to maintain our properties, or for recreation. I'd like to offer some steps you can take to avoid fires when fueling gas-powered equipment. Be safe and protect your home and property! When using gas-powered equipment...



Do not fuel the engine when it is hot. Take a break from your work and let it cool down for several minutes.

Never smoke when fueling. This should go without saying, but you would be surprised how often this simple step is ignored.

Do not over-fill the fuel tank. It's best to leave a "safety margin" of a half-inch or so below the filler neck to avoid problems. When done fueling, close the filler can, and move it well away from the equipment before starting the engine.

Clean up spilled fuels and ventilate the area before starting the equipment, or using any source of flame or sparks nearby.

Beware of sparks coming from the muffler of your equipment when it is running. This is not a normal condition, and may indicate a faulty muffler or spark arrestor.

To minimize backfiring on a small engine, try this simple step: Idle the engine for 30 seconds before shutting it off.

Make sure all equipment guards are in place.

Be on the lookout for any signs of fuel leaks at the engine, such as gasoline puddling on the top of a mower deck. This may indicate a rotted fuel line or other problem, and should be fixed before using the equipment.

Keep a fire extinguisher in your garage (in addition to at least one in your house and car) and be sure it is approved for Class B (flammable liquid) fires.

In dry grass conditions keep a garden hose handy in case of a grass fire. Even striking stones or debris with a lawnmower blade could create enough sparks to ignite tinder-dry grass.

If a fire does occur with your equipment, would you know what to do? First, think of your family's safety, and get everyone out of harm's way. If it's a small fire, you may be able to control it with the proper type of extinguisher. Know which type you have, keep it mounted in plain view, and most importantly: know how to use it! Always call 9-1-1 for *any* fire emergency, even if you believe you have the fire out. If you have questions about fire safety, feel free to contact your local fire department.